

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Field of Activity (9.15) and Profession/Occupation (9.16)

LC acknowledges that earlier it did recommend merging the two elements Field of activity of the person and Profession or occupation. However, based on experience in the US RDA Test, we now realize the usefulness of retaining the two concepts and have two recommendations that may ease the confusion between the two elements:

1. Revise the examples at RDA 9.15, so they represent **fields of activity**. The examples there now are “agent” terms rather than terms representing “field of endeavour, area of expertise, etc.” (The 2nd example “Crow Indian chief” for “Spotted Horse” is more appropriate for inclusion at RDA 9.19.1.2 for a name not conveying the idea of a person.”) Below are suggested replacements for some of the existing examples (LC recommends deleting the other examples):

~~Anglo-Norman poetry~~

Preferred name recorded as: Thomas

~~Journalism~~ ~~Owner of Dance news~~

Preferred name recorded as: Gillespie, Helen

~~Stamp collecting~~

Preferred name recorded as: Lang, Peter

~~Charity~~ ~~Quiltmaking~~

Preferred name recorded as: Bilyeu, Michele

~~Paper airplanes~~ ~~hobbyist~~

Preferred name recorded as: Dewar, Andrew

~~Fiction writing~~

~~Music criticism~~

~~Consultant on~~ ~~s~~ ~~Science vs. superstition~~

Preferred name recorded as: Haldeman, Philip

2. Remove the element Field of activity of the person as a possible addition in an authorized access point because catalogers see a “disconnect” between adding a field of activity to an access point for an individual. Delete 9.19.1.7 and adjust the references in 9.19.1.1 and 9.19.2.1 to remove mention of 9.19.1.7 when talking about additions.

9.19.1.1, 2nd and 4th paragraphs:

Make additions to the name as instructed under [9.19.1.2–9.19.1.67 RDA](#), in that order, as applicable.

Make the additions specified under [9.19.1.3–9.19.1.67 RDA](#) if they are needed to distinguish the person from another person with the same name.

9.19.1.7: instruction and examples:

9.19.1.7 — Field of Activity of the Person

If none of the elements specified under [9.19.1.3 RDA](#) (date of birth and/or death), [9.19.1.4 RDA](#) (fuller form of name), [9.19.1.5 RDA](#) (period of activity of the person), or [9.19.1.6 RDA](#) (profession or occupation) are available to distinguish one access point from another, add a term indicating the field of activity of the person (see [9.15 RDA](#)).

EXAMPLE

Thomas (Anglo-Norman poet)

Spotted Horse (Crow Indian chief)

Isaiah (Biblical prophet)

Gillespie, Helen (Owner of Dance news)

Lang, Peter (Stamp collector)

Powell, Robert (Fire-eater)

9.19.2.1, 2nd paragraph:

Make additions to the name, if they are considered to be important for identification, applying the instructions given under [9.19.1.2–9.19.1.67 RDA](#), as applicable.